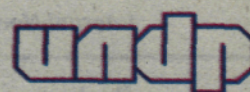




Blue Sky Bulletin



Issue #7, July 1998

Internal Newsletter of UNDP's
Partnership for Progress in Mongolia

Youth Come First in New Agreement

On July 8 a historic agreement was signed between the Government of Mongolia and the United Nations to address the needs of youth. After extensive consultations throughout the first half of this year, the Memorandum of Understanding on Youth details how the UN is supporting the Government in the youth-related areas of employment, education, environment and health. The Government of Mongolia declared 1998 "The Year of Youth" and has backed up its words with a Tg 150 million (US \$184,000) commitment and a concrete Youth Action Strategy, including activities. The MOU is intended to take advantage of the recent Government and NGO consensus on the importance of youth-related issues.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is the result of consultations with UN agencies with representations or project staff in Mongolia (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, UNHCHR, WHO, UNFPA, UNV, World Bank), government ministries, NGOs and youth organizations.

Surveys show that young Mongolians have many worries. These range from poverty, finding a good job and education, to alcoholism and family violence. More recent concerns include HIV/AIDS issues, the price of schooling and pollution issues. Many creative solutions have been developed by youth themselves, the Government, the NGO community and the United Nations. But coordination and information sharing has room for improvement.

The desire to produce an MOU sprouts from urgent needs to save time, money and effort, while making youth programme significantly more efficient and effective. "We sometimes walk down the same road having the same destination in mind. It is best to work together if we are going in the same direction," explains Mr. Ya. Tumurbaatar, Director of the Department of Youth, Women and Family Affairs in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, a key ministry for youth issues in Mongolia.

The point of the MOU writing exercise is not to just create words on paper, but rather it seeks to obtain a commitment and understanding on youth-related issues in Mongolia. The challenge is to bring life to the document.

Cooperation also makes for more creative and effective youth activities and projects. The United Nations country team in Mongolia is coordinating and focusing its own youth programming and finances in four key areas: employment, education, environment and health. In turn the Mongolian Government will undertake the same exercise within key ministries. Close coordination will be part of the implementation.

(cont. on page 4)



70 percent of Mongolia's population are young people under 25.

Human Development Report Gets the Nod at Regional Conference

The 1997 Mongolian Human Development Report was the topic of discussion at a regional workshop in July. Held in Seoul, South Korea the workshop brought together participants from 22 countries in Asia-Pacific – all currently working on National Human Development Reports (NHDR). Mongolia's Report was praised at the workshop for its "simplicity, readability and presentation," according to the Ministry of Health's Mr. Chadraabal, a key researcher with the first report.

The workshop was intended to "share experiences and learn from each other," says workshop participant Ms. D Sukhjargalmaa, Human Development Programme Officer with UNDP.

The Asia-Pacific National Human Development Report Workshop high-lighted the fact the "preparation of the NHDR varies from country to country," continues Sukhjargalmaa "The majority of participants acknowledged the Filipino experience as a good example. They established a Human Development Network, a non-governmental organization (NGO), with the involvement of politicians, development planners, researchers, government officials, experts and other NGOs." The meeting has come out with several recommendations concerning the conceptual and analytical content of the NHDRs, ways to increase their impact and identifying avenues for regional cooperation on NHDRs.

The concept of human development has always been a bit of a conundrum and was still not very clear to some of the countries at the workshop. It was recommended that the concept be better explained, focusing on people-centered development in terminology custom-tailored to each culture and society, while

not diluting the universal character of human development. In order to ensure the linkage between the global and the national HDRs, it was discussed and recommended that the global HDR should avoid introducing new indices every year or modifying the earlier indices. This causes problems in preparing the national HDRs.

It hasn't even been a year since the September, 1997 launch of the first report, but work is already under way on the 1999 Mongolian HDR. "The 1997 MHDR was positively received by the general public," continues

Chadraabal. "We are working on the second one following the principles that this one should be better in terms of theme choice and research work. From the first Report we learnt the lesson that more research and writing was done than actually made it into the Report. The second one should be compact and of a high quality. The Ministerial Council approved the recommendations that came out from

the meeting of about 40 researchers on the theme. This data will be updated and the theme for the 1999 HDR will be human development and government services."

Mr. Ochirbat from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare also joined the workshop. The Government of Mongolia hopes to launch the second Mongolian Human Development Report in July 1999.



Children drawings were widely used in MHDR

We are One World

In the course of 1998-1999, the UN system in cooperation with the Mongolian Government is looking forward to organizing the "One World Conference Series". In follow-up to the global summits of the 1990s tackling critical issues facing mankind, the UN agencies and the Government of Mongolia are spearheading six conferences to expose young people between the ages of 15-19 to development issues of local and global importance.

The tentative conference schedule is as follows:

Children	Nov, 1998
Human Rights	- Dec, 1998
Population and Development	- Jan, 1999
Social Development	- Feb, 1999
Women and Development	- Apr, 1999
National Summit	- May, 1999

Contents:

Youth Come First in New Agreement
MHDR Gets the Nod
News in a Flash
Eastern Steppes
When Disaster Strikes
Driven to Drink in Mongolia
List of New Publications in UN
Infoshop
Up Close and Personal
Arrivals/Departures

News in a flash

UNDP's Tumen River Area Development Regional Programme (TRADP) is going to hold the next intergovernmental meeting for the region in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on October 14-16, 1998. As part of the preparation work, the director of the Programme Mr. David Husband, visited the country recently. During his stay he met with policy- and decision-makers, development planners and donors. From the Government side, Mr. Amarjargal, Minister for Foreign Affairs was appointed to head the national working group on preparation for the upcoming meeting.

The regional Programme aims to develop the economy of the region through the development of infrastructure. The area is set to become one of the Asia-Pacific region's trade and investment hot spots. The member countries of the TRADP are China, Russia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia. The present Mongolian Government is giving priority to the programme according to Minister for Nature and the Environment, Mr. Bayartsogt. For landlocked countries like Mongolia it is essential to gain access to the sea for trade.

Under the project, four participants from Mongolia are going to attend the meeting on Tourism in Yanji, China. Mr. D. Rentsendorj (Ministry of Finance), Mr. E. Davaasuren (Ministry of Infrastructure Development), Mr. P. Haltar (Juulchin Company), Mr. Ch. Enhtaivan (Tsagaan Shonhor Company) are the members of the Working group on the development of tourism in Mongolia.

Mr. Robert Cater, representative of American international technical service provider ACCI/VOCA, has commenced his duties. Under UNDP's Microstart Project he will be facilitating the introduction of microcredit - modest loans made to the poor - in Mongolia. To start he will be assembling a team, conducting a needs assessment in financial services and studying the microenterprise market in Mongolia.

This month UNDP's year-long project on Support to Coordination and Management of External Development Resources is going to be signed by UNDP and the Ministry of External Relations. With US\$270,000 funding from UNDP, the project implementation is foreseen to start in August. With the shifting of responsibility for the Aid Coordination Unit to the Ministry of External Relations, the Government's reform policy is intended to maximize official development assistance through effective coordination of external and internal development resources to ensure their impact on economic and social development. In line with this goal the project aims at making a contribution to the achievement of the Government's objective through its capacity for management and coordination of external resources.

The East Asian Women's Conference is to be held in Ulaanbaatar, capital city of Mongolia, from the 23-26 August, 1998. As the follow-up to the second conference of 1996 in Seoul, the conference is being organized by the Mongolian Liberal Women's Brain Pool, an NGO, and will bring together women from China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Mongolia. The women in the region are to discuss the issues related to the role of women in socio-economic development of the regional countries, while strategizing a joint position for settling problems facing them and designing ways for their settlement.

Eastern Steppes

Development Profile:

Bringing Opportunity While Protecting Biodiversity

Text and photos by B. Zoltuya

The Mongolian Action Programme for the 21st Century was recently adopted by the government of Mongolia. It is an example of the new thinking that is shaping development. In the new millennium development will not be narrowly defined as economic development, but rather the complex interplay of economics, environment, culture and society. The new Eastern Steppe Biodiversity Project, which was signed on June 5th World Environment Day, reflects this new concept. Joining the July opening of the project in Dornod was both Minister for Nature and Environment Mr. S. Bayartsogt and UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Douglas Gardner. Both men were able to see first-hand poverty projects and the environmental condition of the Eastern aimags (Dornod, Sukhbaatar, Khentii).



1. This maternity room in Choibalsan, Dornod aimag centre was established with Tg 386,000 from the Women's Development Fund, established by UNDP. In the aimag between 1,200-1,300 mothers give birth per year of which 50 per cent of these mothers really need both pre- and post-maternity care, which is often missed in soums. One of the women (with a child) in the picture is delivering for the third time. Already she has been in the hospital for three months. Being homeless, she has two other children, one of whom is in Ulaanbaatar. The hospital is taking measures to check her out soon so she can be with her relatives. Increases in the per bed/per night cost to Tg 4,000

means the maternity ward can now provide women with hot meals twice a day.

2. Ms. Ochirsodnom, 41, has three children and is a single mother. With five other single mothers she is running a project to turn livestock intestines into sausage casings or exporting salted strips to be used for medical sutures and parachutes. Tg 700,000 of the loan from the Women's Development Fund allowed these women to start the project. Before being engaged in the project, Ms. Ochirsodnom was working for more than 20 years in the local meat factory, after which she was unemployed for three years. "Before my family used to eat only one hot meal a day," she says. "Now we can afford two meals a day. I bought as well some necessary clothes for myself and my children." As well one of the women started building a house. To pay the loan back, the team puts some money into a revolving fund. In the future, after the loan is paid back they will continue the activity and are even thinking of expanding it and involving more people.



3. The Aduunchuluun mine in Dornod is working to its full capacity of extracting 300,000 tonnes of coal for local needs. It has a reserve of 240 million tonnes of coal. In order to mine coal the first 30 m of the soil must be removed. For the protection of the environment the mine put the discarded soil in a field. This year about Tg 1 million is allocated for the renewal of the environment. With this money they are going to plant perennial plants and fruit bushes. In Khentii and Dornod aimags about 80 enterprises conduct mining.



4. Dornod aimag used to be home to a Russian military base. In 1991 troops moved out of Mongolia with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Families of the soldiers were living in five to six villages around Choibalsan town. After the soldiers moved out, apartments were inhabited by the locals. But due to the fact that they could not pay for the heating and electricity, a second exodus occurred when these families moved out of the buildings. Exacerbating the problem was the supply of Russian mazut or black oil used to heat the buildings, which was no longer being imported. Now all these villages with apartment buildings and playgrounds are empty since 1992. We were struck to see all those buildings empty - no windows, no balconies, nothing but bare concrete walls.

Driven to Drink in Mongolia

In June UNDP Mongolia hosted a visit of journalists to see our projects in Ulaanbaatar and the Gobi Desert. This story is just one amongst many that resulted from that trip.

Aid agencies say the transition from communism to market economy has hit Mongolia so hard that some men have been driven to drink and some women to despair. The BBC's Charu Shahane thought it was a stereotype worth investigating.

Sitting in a traditional Mongolian home outside the capital Ulaanbaatar – a felt tent called a ger and sipping sweet milk – we were to be embarrassed by our assumptions.

"This", said our Mongolian friend, indicating the frothing milk cup in her hand, "is all people in the countryside drink. Milk, milk and more milk."

"And vodka surely," said one of our group confidently. "Where did you hear that?" said the Mongolian, astonished at hearing her countryfolk described as a bunch of drunks.

"In Mongolia," she said firmly, "we have a saying which encapsulates our attitude to alcohol. It says you can't drink at all till you are 30 years old, from 30 to 60 you may drink only a sip or two, and it's only when you've retired and are too old to work that you're allowed to drink more than that – and even then only to enjoy the drink – not to get drunk."

"So there's no alcoholism in Mongolia?"

"Well, yes," she said, "but which society doesn't have its tipplers and boozers?"

Vodka toasts

Back in the capital Ulaanbaatar and we're in a bar adjacent to the Chinghis Khan beer factory. A scratchy Celine Dion tape croons the theme song of the Titanic as tongues thicken and eyes glaze over among the bar's clientele.

In pre-communist Mongolia the moral authority of the family and tradition might have kept Mongolians away from drink, but in the 50 long years since then, vodka toasts have entered Mongolian social etiquette.

Let's look at the facts – in Soviet times every province of Mongolia had a food processing factory – where food was canned or preserved for export back to the Soviet Union.

Unemployment and alcohol

The food factories now stand silent, desolate and draughty – windowpanes long shattered but not replaced – monuments to the fall of communism.

Except for one department of the factory – the only section that hasn't ceased production is the distillery – the part that produces vodka.

It's no wonder that international aid organizations are concerned. Mongolian men have been drinking vodka for 50 years – but it's the tragic combination of unemployment and alcohol which is alarming.

And as though to confirm the stereotype – everywhere you turn in the capital – it's the women you see at work. In other countries this would be attributed to their willingness to take on low-status secretarial positions – but in Mongolia women work in cities because they're also more highly educated.

The UN representative in Ulaanbaatar told me that of all the countries in the world he's lived in, Mongolia is unique in having more girls than boys at school.

The end of communism and the consequent unemployment have forced Mongolian men back to the traditional nomadic herding lifestyle of their forefathers – the men and boys are back on the land – the girls still in cities gaining that all-important schooling and eventually getting the jobs.

It's not all Mongolian men who are drunks – only some of the unemployed ones – and it's not only the women who despair – but the men in the countryside as well.

All, I suppose, except the ones who own the vodka factories.

(courtesy BBC Radio)

Up Close and Personal

Interview with Ms. M. Enkhsetseg, Programme Support Unit Officer, UNDP

When did you start working for the UN?

It has been six years now.

With your varied and rich experience with the UN, do you see any improvements in your field of work?

I worked as the PSU Officer for quite some time. I deal with rules and regulations of UNDP procedures. For the last few years there were some improvements in procedures. Much paper work and bureaucracy is reduced. Things are being decentralized. For instance, for every revision you had to get HQs approval, but now the country office is authorized to make certain approvals.

How do you spend your leisure time?

For longer vacations, I like going to the country. On shorter holidays, I like reading Russian classics, walking and keeping a diary.

What is your favourite book? Why?

Leo Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina". I think as a woman she is the ideal female character. I admire her faithfulness to her principles and thoughts and the ability to sacrifice for her ideals and views.

What is the main principle guiding your life?

To be honest, humane and determined. Myself, I try to follow these. I really hate lies and deceit.

You've decided to become a UNV. What is the reason?

First of all, I think it's time for change. For six years I've been doing different things in the office. On the other hand, after working in the PSU I learnt something that could be of help to others. I feel confident that I can deliver the knowledge to somebody else. When I heard about the chance, I felt proud to be chosen to establish such a unit in a different UNDP office. As well, this will be another experience in my career and life.

How do you see your future life?

What I am thinking about now is to broaden my knowledge and skills through study. To go further I really need substantial knowledge.

By the way, what is your background?

Electronics engineer.

What is your last thought you would like to share with our readers?

For young people (about 20-30 year old) I would like to say, "improve your knowledge, study, don't discourage yourselves and be hard-working."



News in a flash

The Government of Mongolia has adopted a National Forestry Programme. On the request of the Ministry for Nature and the Environment, the support and advice on the programme as well as on drafting the National Forestry Policy, was provided by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) adviser Mr. Chandrasekhara. It was recommended at a Cabinet session that action on raising public awareness and on actual implementation should be carried out in time by the Ministry for Nature and the Environment, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and local governors and their offices.

1995 figures show Mongolia's forests occupy 17.5 million hectares of which 12.7mln is actually covered with trees. This means forest only covers 8.1 per cent of the total territory of Mongolia, a very low figure when comparing with other countries. In 1996 alone, 2.3 million hectares of area caught fire and 250,000 hectares was completely destroyed.

The regional project on gender development was signed recently between the Governments of Mongolia, China and South Korea. Biochemical technology and its application for the advancement of women scientists and the alleviation of poverty is Mongolia's priority. Animal husbandry was an important component of the Mongolian economy. Mare's milk is plentiful and consumed widely by Mongolians. However, this is only seasonal consumption. In order to make it a year round consumption and improve storage conditions, Mongolian scientists would cooperate with women scientists from South Korea and China on developing new technologies to avoid getting rancid taste and to determine suitable condition of spray drying. They would also look into new ways to analyze the chemical composition of mare's milk and conduct experiments into the healing properties of mare's milk. Mongolia's main concern is to develop technology to utilize mare's milk that will increase the incomes of rural households.

As part of an integrated effort in preparation of the 1999 Mongolian HDR, the National Statistical Office, using financial and technical support from UNDP's Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation Project, is conducting a comprehensive Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) during the month of July. The survey is designed to compile holistic information about the residents at both urban and rural areas.

The analysis is expected to provide hard facts on the general well-being of the population. Other information being gathered includes housing, education, health, employment, income, expenditure and household participation on farm and non-farm private industries. The LSMS will continue to be conducted regularly, and will serve as major source of information for not only the MHDR, but for all development programmes in the nation.

The UN online magazine "Ger" will be launched in September (<http://www.un-mongolia.mn>). The magazine, in both English and Mongolian, will focus on the personal stories of Mongolians and will include information on the cooperation of UN agencies with the Government of Mongolia. It will be written by journalists working in Mongolia. UN agencies cooperating on the magazine include United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), UN Volunteers (UNV), UNDP, the human rights agency (UNHCHR) and UNESCO. This will be an invaluable source of information for our partners in development, including the Government of Mongolia, donors, NGOs and Internet users in Mongolia and around the world.

When disaster strikes: Coordinating international relief

By A. Delgermaa

The charred remains of a mountain side leave a black hole on the landscape. Devastated by two days fire in Uliastai, a suburb of Ulaanbaatar, it is a common sight during the Mongolian spring. The country experienced one of its worst natural disasters in 1996, when catastrophic forest fires struck 16 aimags, raising 10.5 million hectares of forest and pastureland. It became apparent that the ability of the government and civil society to respond to natural disasters had been severely weakened during the transition period.

This year has offered further reminders that Mongolia is not immune to disasters. Two severe wind storms – the most serious in the far west of the country, Bayan-Ulgii – killed thousands of livestock and caused widespread damage to property. There have also been minor earthquakes that bear reminder Mongolia sits on several fault lines.

The Sukhbaatar storm on June 17 saw winds reach 40 metres a second. Except one case of frozen man, no other victims were reported. More than Tg 10 million damage was caused and 24,000 heads of livestock were lost. Damages included collapsed gers, houses, fences and electricity poles. About 20 households were left without any livestock. The local government took some measures to help the households to purchase gers. In the aftermath, the local government is helping the herders with purchasing new livestock and developing an insurance scheme for livestock. Among the herders there were none insured for livestock.

UNDP took the initiative to firm up disaster preparedness capabilities after the 1996 fires. Through its US \$329,000 Support to Community-based Rehabilitation of Forest and Disaster Manage-

ment Project, UNDP in partnership with the Nature and Environment Ministry, has been working on improving the country's ability to handle natural disasters.

Administrative reforms within the United Nations have also placed a greater responsibility on UNDP to coordinate all international disaster relief when crisis strikes. To assist this effort, a DM UN team (Disaster Management team) comprising UN organizations with representation in Mongolia (UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF), has been functioning since last year to help in coordinating assistance to the country if the government requests it. When the request comes, the DM team makes a direct appeal to national and international NGOs or donor countries to help Mongolia.

The project term is finishing this year but disaster management has started to take hold in the country. In the wake of the 1996 fires, an extensive reforestation component has been key to the project. Four groups of families consisting of up to 24 families in Selenge and Arhangai aimags are authorized to run forest-related businesses tax-free in return for taking care of the environment and fire prevention measures and reforestation.

"Land is privately-owned in other countries. People are allowed to use land and the project is getting successful despite most land being state-owned in Mongolia," notes Arnold Alhback, a Swedish United Nations Volunteer (UNV) and the project consultant.

The draft Programme of National Disaster Reduction has been developed and, according to the national coordinator, J. Batbayar, this leaves the government in the driver's seat of all disaster management and relief.

Youth come first ...

(cont. from page 1)

The United Nations in Mongolia has been no stranger to youth issues through the projects and programming of its agencies. And there are tangible successes in United Nations projects in support to the Government: support to poverty alleviation, to women and children, support to economic transition and sound governance, the introduction of modern information technology, to sustainable use of natural resources and support for prevention of HIV/AIDS and STDs.

Several excellent models have been set up for cooperation between the Government, the United Nations and the NGO community.

Building on tangible successes of the past, the Memorandum of Understanding on Youth hopes to provide a framework for meeting young Mongolians' needs today and into the next millennium.

About the significance of the document Mr. Sh. Batbayar, Minister for Health and Social Welfare, noted: "We are signing this document at this particular time when the Government of Mongolia announced this year the year of Youth and it is working towards reformulating the state policy on youth in line with the overall transition in the country."

The UN system in Mongolia expressed its readiness to support. Mr. Douglas Gardner, UN Resident Coordinator stresses "We will do our best to coordinate with you and to ensure that our assistance is effective and well-targeted."

The Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Ts. Elbegdorj, chose the signing as an opportunity to award UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Douglas Gardner as one of the most outstanding persons who have contributed to the success of the Year of Youth. Previous recipients have come from diverse backgrounds, including a wrestler, a student, a herder a poet and business people. Mr. Gardner indicated his deep appreciation for the award and wished to share the accolades with "the talented members of government working on youth issues, the creative Mongolian NGOs addressing the needs of young people, and my fellow UN team members who are working together to support Mongolia's national priorities." The Tg 100,000 prize money will be spent on a youth activity.



The underground stove is commonly used in eastern aimags.

Arrivals/Departures

Ms. M. Enkhsetseg, Programme Support Unit Officer is moving to UNDP- Tadjikistan as a UNV; Ms. S. Enkhkhuuya will replace Ms. M. Enkhsetseg in her absence for a year; Ms. O. Oyuniham started working as a finance assistant; Mr. Marion Antony Zalcman, a Polish UNV, commenced his work on a Reproductive Health Survey at the National Statistical Office; Ms. Pauline Prince, an Australian UNV will work as a Health Educator for WASH-21, the water and sanitation project; Ms. Margaret Bonner, Australian UNV, will work as a Pharmacist at the WHO; HIV/AIDS health adviser and UNV Nicholas Bates is returning to Australia; UNV Programme Officers Beatriz Chua and Kwan-Koo Choi will finish their assignments in August.

List of new publications and reports available in UN Information Shop

1. World Resources 1998-1999. A Guide to the Global Environment. Environmental Change and Human Health
The World Resources Institute, UNEP, UNDP, IBRD, Oxford University Press, New York, 1998 (in English)
2. Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss
An Analytical Approach by Pamela Stedman-Edwards, WWF, 1998 (in English)
3. World Disaster Report 1998
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Oxford University Press, New York, 1998 (in English)
4. The Progress of Nations 1998
UNICEF New York (in English and Russian)
5. Earth Summit +5
Programme for the Further Implementation of AGENDA 21
UN, UNDP, 1997 (in English)
6. The World Health Report 1998.
Life in the 21st Century. A Vision for all
WHO, France, 1998
7. Children at Risk in Central and East-

- ern Europe: Perils and Promises
Economies in Transition Studies.
Regional monitoring Report N4, UNICEF, 1997 (in English and Russian)
8. Review of the Youth Situation, Policies and Programmes in Asia and the Pacific
UN, ESCAP, 1997 (in English)
9. Biological Diversity in Mongolia: First National Report
MNE, UNDP, GEF
Mongolia, 1998 (in English)
10. United Nations System in Mongolia: 1997 Annual Report
Mongolia, 1998 (in English and Mongolian)
11. AIDS Update 1997: A Report on UNFPA Support for HIV/AIDS Prevention
UNFPA, New York, 1998
12. The Mongolian Action Programme for the 21st Century: MAP 21 (Executive Summary and Strategic Analysis)
Government of Mongolia, UNDP, MAP 21, 1998 (in English)

We accept letters! All letters should be no more than 200 words in length. News briefs should be a maximum of 100 words each. Field reports should not exceed 350 words. The Blue Sky Bulletin is a publication of the United Nations Development Programme in Mongolia. The newsletter is published every month. The next deadline for submissions is August 18.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are free! We can send the newsletter to you electronically, via e-mail, or by post. Just send us your address and how you would like to receive the newsletter and we will rush it out straight away.

All submissions must be sent to the Communications Office, UNDP, 7

Erkhuu St., Ulaanbaatar,
PO Box 49/207.

Telephone: (976-1) 321539.

Fax: (976-1) 326221.

E-mail: dsouth@undp.org.mn

Please check out the United Nations Homepage at <http://www.un-mongolia.mn>

Blue Sky Bulletin